

## Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 INSE-00 SCA-01 VO-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 SSO-00 H-02

USIE-00 /043 W

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O 241000Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9358

INFO CNO IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

CINCPACFLT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

CINCPACREPPHIL SUBIC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12865

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VN, RP

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD USNS HUDSON

REF: A) MANILA 12745; B) STATE 209219; C) GENEVA 6699 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. AS INSTRUCTED, EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED GOP PERMISSION TO LAND 47 VN REFUGEES IN MANILA AND TO ACCEPT THEM TEMPORARILY ON THE BASIS OF QUALIFIED U.S. ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESETTLEMENT. WHILE WE AS YET HAVE NO OFFICIAL GOP RESPONSE, READINGS WHICH WE AND UNHCR REP HAVE RECEIVED ARE QUITE NEGATIVE. WE BELIEVE WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR PROBABILITY OF GOP REQUIREMENT FOR UNQUALIFIED U.S. GUARANTEE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE. WE ALSO MUST CONSIDER POSSIBILITY THAT GOP WILL SUGGEST REFUGEES BE OFF-LOADED AT SUBIC FOR U.S. PROCESSING AND ONWARD MOVEMENT OUTSIDE PHILIPPINES. END SUMMARY.

2. MORNING AUGUST 24 MINISTER CALLED ON AMB. GARCIA,  
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DFA CHIEF OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS, AND DELIVERED NOTE

REQUESTING URGENT GOP PERMISSION FOR USNS HUDSON TO DISCHARGE 47 VN REFUGEES IN PORT OF MANILA AND ASKING GOP TO ACCEPT THESE REFUGEES ON A TEMPORARY BASIS WITHIN CONTEXT OF RECENT UNHCR APPEAL TO COUNTRIES OF FIRST ASYLUM. NOTE ALSO OUTLINED QUALIFIED USG ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESETTLEMENT OF THESE REFUGEES, AS SET FORTH REF B.

3. GARCIA PROMISED TO TAKE UP CASE WITH ROMULO AND LET US HAVE GOP DECISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD SEEK TO DISCUSS CASE WITH UNHCR REP DAHR THIS AFTERNOON. GARCIA EVINced CONCERN ABOUT CURRENT OVERLOADING OF FABELLA REFUGEE CENTER, MENTIONING RECENT ARRIVAL OF A NUMBER OF NEW REFUGEE GROUPS AND FACT THAT CENTER WAS NOW QUOTE PACKED FULL UNQUOTE WITH ABOUT 350 REFUGEES. HE NOTED FURTHER THAT ROMULO HAD COMMENTED TO HIM LAST NIGHT THAT HE DID NOT WANT THE PHILIPPINES TO BECOME QUOTE A WASTE BASKED UNQUOTE FOR REFUGEES, AND HAD CITED THE REFUSAL OF SUCH COUNTRIES AS SINGAPORE TO ACCEPT REFUGEES. MINISTER COUNTERED BY OFFERING HIS VIEW THAT COUNTRIES OF AREA NOW SHOWING MORE RECEPTIVE POSTURE REGARDING REFUGEES IN THE WAKE OF RECENT UNHCR APPEAL. MINISTER ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO NOTE WE HAD HEARD THAT UNHCR HAD SENT WARM MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION TO GOP FOR ITS ROLE IN ACCEPTING REFUGEES FROM THE HIGH SEAS (REF C).

4. MEANTIME, EMBASSY CONTACTED UNHCR REP DAHR TO FILL HIM IN ON CASE AND ON OUR APPROACH TO DFA AND TO SEEK HIS FULL SUPPORT THIS MATTER. DHAR INDICATED HE WOULD BE HELPFUL (ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS CASE FROM GENEVA). SUBSEQUENTLY, DAHR TELEPHONED TO REPORT THAT HE HAD MET WITH GARCIA WHO APPARENTLY HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED THE CASE WITH ROMULO. DAHR DESCRIBED GARCIA AS UNHAPPY OVER THE PROSPECT OF RECEIVING MORE REFUGEES AT THIS TIME; DAHR ESTIMATED THAT THE GOP WOULD RESPOND NEGATIVELY TO OUR NOTE. DAHR ALSO OPINED THAT UNQUALIFIED U.S. ASSURANCES REGARDING CONFIDENTIAL

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RESETTLEMENT OF THESE REFUGEES (AS HE SAID WE PROVIDED IN AN EARLIER CASE INVOLVING SINGAPORE) MIGHT BE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO INDUCE GOP WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE THEM ON A TEMPORARY BASIS.

5. COMMENT: WHILE STILL HOPING TO PERSUADE GOP TO AGREE TO ACCEPT REFUGEES TEMPORARILY ON BASIS OUR QUALIFIED ASSURANCES, WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR PROBABILITY

OF GOP REQUIREMENT FOR UNQUALIFIED U.S. GUARANTEE OF THEIR RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE DESPATCHED INS AND CONSULAR OFFICERS TO COMMENCE PROCESSING FORTHWITH ON SHIPBOARD, WHILE WE CONTINUE TO PRESS GOP FOR PERMISSION TO LAND REFUGEES ASAP IN MANILA. WE ALSO WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED, HOWEVER, IF GOP REPLY WERE TO SUGGEST THAT REFUGEES BE OFF-LOADED AT SUBIC NAVAL BASE UNDER U.S. CUSTODY FOR U.S. PROCESSING AND ONWARD MOVEMENT OUTSIDE THE PHILIPPINES. IN THAT EVENT, WE SHOULD BE FACED WITH EVERAL IMMEDIATE PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE: (A) WHETHER TO LAND THE REFUGEES AT SUBIC PENDING FURTHER PROCESSING AND ONWARD TRANSPORTATION, (B) TO WHERE AND BY WHAT MEANS (SCHEDULED OR UNSCHEDULED CHARTER, CIVILIAN OR U.S. MILITARY) TO TRANSPORT THE REFUGEES, AND (C) HOW TO FINANCE QUARTERS, FOOD, TRANSPORT AND INCIDENTAL EXPENSES OF THE REFUGEES. DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT COMMENT AND CONTINGENT AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THESE EVENTUALITIES WOULD BE APPRECIATED. WE HOWEVER SHALL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR LANDING OF REFUGEES UNDER UNHCR AUSPICES PENDING ONWARD TRANSPORTATION. SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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